

The Emu. (Vol. xv. pt. 3. Melbourne, 1916.)

The Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxv. Nos. 1-3. Dublin, 1916.)

Messenger Ornithologique. (1915, No. 3. Moscow, 1915.)

Sarawak Museum Journal. (Vol. ii. No. 6. Sarawak, 1915.)

The Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 49-51. Edinburgh, 1916.)

XIX.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

SIR,—In the recent edition of the ‘B. O. U. List of British Birds,’ *Acanthis linaria rostrata* is called the Greenland Redpoll. Coues, who described the bird, called it the Greater Redpoll, as does the A. O. U. Check-list, and though the bird may not be larger than *Acanthis hornemanni*, the massive beak gives it the appearance of size, and makes the name “Greater” descriptive. In the case of *Acanthis hornemanni*, the B. O. U. List calls it Hornemann’s Redpoll, the B. O. U. List of 1883 called it the Greenland Redpoll, as does the present A. O. U. Check-list, and between these common names there is nothing to choose except that uniformity between the British and American Lists is desirable.

May I suggest that in the next British List *Acanthis linaria rostrata* be called the Greater Redpoll, and I have little doubt that the A. O. U. would reciprocate in the next Check-list and call *Acanthis hornemanni* Hornemann’s Redpoll?

Now that *Stercorarius parasiticus* and *Stercorarius longicaudus* mean the same thing in both the B. O. U. and the A. O. U. Lists, it is perhaps not too much to hope for uniformity—if not in classification, at least in names—in future editions of both Lists.

I am, Sir,

267 Rusholme Road,
Toronto, Ontario.
January 1, 1916.

Yours, &c.,

J. H. FLEMING.

SIR,—An interesting point in connection with the birds of Grand Cayman Island (W. Indies) is that in no fewer than four of them the colour-variation from what may be

presumed to be the parent species is in the same direction. Alike in *Icterus bairdi*, *Amazona caymanensis*, *Dendroica vitellina*, and *Spindalis salvini*, when compared with *I. leucopteryx*, *A. cubensis*, *D. discolor*, and *S. benedicti*, the tendency seems to be towards a brighter, paler, and more yellow type of coloration.

A possible explanation may be the remarkable want of dense shade in the island. The woods are usually open, and the general effect at any time of the year is very much that of England in May. The soil, too, is, as a rule, the brightly coloured red kind so often found in limestone country—in the neighbourhood of Torquay, for instance.

Another explanation might perhaps be found in the fact that in Grand Cayman there are no resident Birds of Prey (except *Strix flammea*), so that once a bird is fledged and has, as a nestling, escaped the attentions of snakes, lizards, and mocking-birds, it has practically no enemies to fear, and can indulge with impunity in the tendency towards yellow feathers which, under certain circumstances, green and olive coloured birds (*e. g.* Canaries, Budgerigars) seem to have.

Much the same change in colouring is to be seen in the agouti, which, under the name of "rabbit," was introduced some twenty-five or thirty years ago from Central America, and according to the islanders was then grey. At the present time it is generally pale chestnut or about the colour of the European squirrel. It has multiplied exceedingly in the south and west of Grand Cayman, where, though undoubtedly eatable, it is now looked upon as a pest.

On the other hand, *Mus alexandrinus* seems to be always grey and *Mus musculus* ordinary mouse-colour. But the agouti is by no means as nocturnal in its habits as rats and mice are. Many of the "coloured" islanders have unexpectedly fair hair. I have never seen anywhere else the combination of really golden hair with a *café-au-lait* complexion. Of course, this may be due to quite other causes than those which affect the colouring of the island fauna, but it seems possible that the same reason, whatever

it may be, may account for the size of the people (6 ft. is about the average for the men both white and black, while 6 ft. 8 in. or more is not unknown) and of at least one of the birds, *Dendroica vitellina*, when compared with its possible progenitor.

Perhaps it may be found in the exceedingly healthy climate of Cayman. The human death-rate there is from seven to eight, probably as low as it is anywhere in the world, and life is easy for men and birds alike.

Yours faithfully,

The Hayes,
Chandler's Ford, Hants.
March 4, 1916.

T. M. SAVAGE-ENGLISH.

SIR,—In the last number of 'The Ibis' (October 1915, p. 789), I found a notice on my paper, "Description d'un nouveau genre et d'une nouvelle espèce de Pic, provenant du N.W. de la Rép. Argentine," where, without giving any explanation, is said: "It does not appear that Señor Dabbene has had an opportunity of examining the type or other examples of Cabanis's species, and we venture to suggest that it is unlikely that two distinct species of so large and well-characterised a form would inhabit the same locality."

I must remark that evidently the criticiser has not read entirely my article, where, on p. 81, I give the average of the dimensions of eight specimens of *Phlwotomus schulzi*, one of them shot by myself in Cordoba, the same locality where the type of Cabanis was obtained.

With this letter I send you a photograph of several specimens of *Ph. schulzi* which are preserved in the collection of the National Museum of Buenos Aires and one of the new species described, *N. shiptoni*. The other specimens of the last species that I have observed belong to the collection of Mr. Lillo of Tucuman, who has kindly lent them to me for examination.

With regard to the differences between *N. schulzi* and *N. shiptoni* that I have given in my paper, I believe they are of sufficient value to separate one from the other,

and I do not find it at all unlikely that both may be found in the same Province of Tucuman.

Just now, I have described in 'Boletin Sociedad Physis' an apparently new race, very similar to *N. schulzi*, with which it agrees in all characters, but is considerably larger.

This new race of *N. schulzi* has been recently obtained by Mr. Mogensen in Resistencia (Chaco Austral) on the right bank of the Parana River. I think that the occurrence of a race of this species so far towards the east is very interesting, while *N. schulzi* was known to inhabit only the centre and north-west of Argentine (Cordoba and Tucuman).

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

ROBERTO DABBENE,

Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires.

Curator of Birds, Nat. Mus. of
Natural Hist., Buenos Aires.

January 7, 1916.

[We regret that we suggested in error that Señor Dabbene had not examined examples of Cabanis' species, but must still adhere to our opinion that it is unlikely two such closely allied species as *N. schulzi* and *N. shiptoni* should occur in the same locality.]

SIR,—Let me point out that in reviewing in 'The Ibis,' January 1916, pp. 180-181, our 'Ornithological Review' of 1914, you ascribe papers on *Caccabis chukar*, *Cyanistes cyanus yenisseeensis*, *Parus bokharensis*, and *Cuculus canorus subtelephonus* to Prof. P. P. Sushkin, whereas they were written by Mr. N. A. Zarudny.

Yours most truly,

Wesenberg, Esthonia, Russia.

S. A. BUTURLIN.

January 27, 1916.

The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union.—The Annual General Meeting of the B.O.U. for 1916 was held on March 8 at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London, Mr. Henry Munt, in the absence of the President, being in the Chair. There were thirty-nine Members present.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, and of the Special General Meeting held on January 12, 1916, were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following Report of the Committee for the past year:—

“The Committee regret that owing to the very heavy extraordinary expenditure during 1914–15 they have to report a further grave decrease in the funds of the Union. The accounts for the past year, which have been audited in detail by Mr. T. H. Newman, show a comparatively satisfactory result in so far as ordinary expenditure and receipts are concerned. The total receipts in 1915 were £736 5s. 0d. as compared with £731 4s. 10d. in the previous year, and the total payments amounted to £766 8s. 2d. as against £811 13s. 7d. in 1914. The balance carried forward to 1916 was £1 17s. 5d.

“The cost of ‘The Ibis’ has been reduced from £543 7s. 8d. in 1914 to £505 2s. 6d. in 1915, and in no item of routine expenditure has there been an increase calling for remark. We have, however, to face a further very heavy expenditure during 1916 on account of the Dutch New Guinea Supplement and the new General Index (1895–1912). On the 1st of January last we owed £268 1s. 6d. on account of work done for these two publications, and we estimate a further expenditure of about £150 before the Index is completed.

“A certain proportion of the cost of the B. O. U. List of British Birds will be recovered and a smaller proportion of the cost of the General Index, but we can expect to receive very little beyond such sums as the Dutch New Guinea Expedition Committee can eventually hand over to us towards the cost of the Supplement. The Secretary estimates, however, that with the increase in subscriptions the Union should be able to cover all expenses by 1919 and afterwards always be in a position to undertake any necessary extraordinary expenditure without incurring debt.

“The Annual Volume of ‘The Ibis’ for 1915, edited by Mr. W. L. Selater, is the fifty-seventh volume, and the third

of the Tenth Series. It contains 829 pages, and is illustrated with 5 coloured and 4 uncoloured plates and 14 text-figures.

“With regret the Committee report the deaths of the following Members since the last Annual General Meeting:—Dr. R. M. Barrington, Lord Brabourne, E. S. Cameron, P. T. L. Dodsworth, H. E. Dresser, C. M. Dyer, Hon. G. Legge, Capt. E. F. Penn, Sir A. W. Rücker, Col. Charles Stonham, Major C. H. T. Whitehead, R. B. Woosnam, and Hans Graf von Berlepsch.

“The following gentlemen have resigned:—H. B. Brooke, J. J. Dalglish, H. B. Elton, J. R. G. Gwatkin, Richard Heywood, H. Le Strange, C. J. Leyland, Sir H. C. Monro, Wickham Noakes, W. H. R. Saunders, W. P. Westell, B. I. Whitaker, S. B. Wilson, Capt. J. B. Young.

“The names of C. P. Conigrave and Herbert Goodchild have been removed from the List of Members under Rule 6.

“The membership of the Union, and comparison with the previous five years, is as follows:—

	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Ordinary Members...	420	441	433	425	420	419
Extraordinary „ ...	1	1	1	2	3	3
Honorary „ ...	9	9	7	8	9	9
Hon. Lady „ ...	8	6	6	6	6	4
Colonial „ ...	10	10	9	9	9	10
Foreign „ ...	19	20	19	20	20	19

“There are 15 candidates for Ordinary and 1 for Hon. Lady Membership.

“Under existing circumstances it has not been possible to progress with the General Index to ‘The Ibis’ for the years 1895 to 1912 so well as was anticipated, but the first half is now nearly all printed, and the remaining portion will be pushed on as rapidly as possible.”

The Statement of Accounts for the year 1915, previously circulated to Members, was submitted and approved, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the Auditor, Mr. T. H. Newman.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year, and Lord Rothschild was elected a Member of the Committee in the place of Mr. H. Munt, who retired by rotation.

The Rev. J. R. Hale and Mr. C. D. Borrer were appointed Scrutineers to superintend the Ballot.

The following fifteen gentlemen were elected Ordinary Members of the Union:—Ernest E. Adams, John P. Stephenson Clarke, Dr. Henry N. Coltart, Algernon J. Currie, Giuseppe Despott, Alfred Ezra, Capt. John M. Fal-kiner, I.M.S., F.R.C.S., Cyril Hopwood, Walter S. Millard, F.Z.S., Cyril W. Mackworth Praed, Bernard C. Thomasset, F.Z.S., Walter E. Wait, Walter J. F. Williamson, I.C.S., Charles M. Woodford, C.M.G., and Rag. Cav. Vittoria Zambra.

Miss Maud D. Haviland was elected an Honorary Lady Member.

On the recommendation of the Committee, Mr. W. L. Sclater proposed "That ladies be admitted to Ordinary Membership of the B. O. U.;" this was seconded by Mr. H. J. Elwes. Mr. C. D. Borrer and Dr. C. B. Ticehurst spoke against the motion, and then Mr. P. F. Bunyard moved an amendment, "That the question of ladies becoming Ordinary Members of the B. O. U. be held over until after the War"; this was seconded by Mr. G. Blaine.

After some discussion, in which, amongst others, Lord Rothschild, Mr. E. Bidwell, Dr. H. O. Forbes, Mr. H. D. Astley, and Mr. H. G. Alexander took part, the amendment was put to the Meeting and lost (10 in favour, 20 against). The original motion was then put and declared carried (20 in favour, 15 against).

The Rev. J. R. Hale then asked that future Meetings might not, as in the present instance, be fixed on Ash Wednesday, and the Secretary in reply explained that the fact had not been noticed until too late to make any alteration, or another date would certainly have been chosen.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith proposed and Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant seconded a vote of thanks to the Zoological Society for the use of their offices and rooms during the past year. This was carried unanimously.

Lord Rothschild moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the Chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the proceedings in the unavoidable absence of the President. This was seconded by Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, and carried.

This closed the business on the Agenda, but as the Meeting was about to disperse, Mr. Elwes rose and moved the following resolution:—"That the name of H.M. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria be and hereby is removed from the list of Ordinary Members of the Union." The Chairman pointed out that as no notice of this motion had been sent previously to the Committee, and had therefore not been circulated to the Members with the circular convening the Meeting, he must rule it out of order. Col. H. W. Feilden opposed this ruling and seconded the motion, whereupon considerable discussion ensued, in which Messrs. E. Bidwell, S. Boorman, H. D. Astley, W. L. Selater, C. D. Borrer, Dr. H. O. Forbes, and Lord Rothschild took part. The Chairman then repeated his ruling, explained the procedure to be adopted, and regretted that he must adhere to it, although the sympathies of the Committee and himself were with the motion. He further stated that the Committee would feel bound to resign if his ruling were not accepted.

As the feeling of the Meeting seemed against accepting the Chairman's ruling, and further discussion at once arose on the matter, he placed the resignations of the Committee as a body in the hands of the Members present and left the Chair.

List of M.B.O.U. serving with H.M. Forces.—The following is a further short list of names to be added to those already printed in 'The Ibis' for October last year and January this year.

A summary of the previous and present list shows:—

	Previous lists.	April list.
Serving in the Navy.....	9	0
„ France	11	3
„ Egypt and Gallipoli	7	0
„ India	8	0
„ East and South Africa ..	3	1
„ the British Isles	37	0
Killed in action or died from illness.	5	2
Prisoner in Germany	1	0
	—	—
	81	6
	—	—

- Blackwood, G. G.** 2nd Lieut., 10th Batt. Seaforth Highlanders, attached to 8th Batt. Was in France and accidentally wounded.
- Haagner, A. K.** Patrol Leader, No. 8 Patrol, Pretoria Civic Guard. In South Africa.
- Penn, E. F.** Capt., 4th Batt. Grenadier Guards, in France. Killed in action, Oct. 18 (see p. 345).
- Russell, C. G. E.** Capt., Bedfordshire Yeomanry. (Seconded for service as a Train Conducting Officer.)
- Stonham, C.** Col. R.A.M.C. Served in Egypt. Died of illness contracted on service, Jan. 31 (see p. 346).
- Wenner, M. V.** Private in the 20th (3rd Public Schools) Batt. Royal Fusiliers, subsequently Flight Sub-Lieut., Royal Flying Corps.

A Life of the late W. B. Tegetmeier.—Naturalists the world over will be glad to learn that a life of the “Grand Old Man” of the Bird World (W. B. Tegetmeier) is about to be published by Messrs. Witherby & Co. It is written by his son-in-law, Mr. E. W. Richardson, who was long associated with him in his literary and social life. The “Life” of the man who collaborated with Darwin; discovered the cylindrical origin of the bee’s cell; inaugurated the first Pigeon Flight in England; witnessed operations before chloroform was known; helped to found the Savage Club, and who lived through five reigns, can scarcely fail to be of absorbing interest.